

# Dogs on Conservation Land



Natural Resources Commission  
Public Hearing  
May 11, 2017

# NRC Land Management and Stewardship

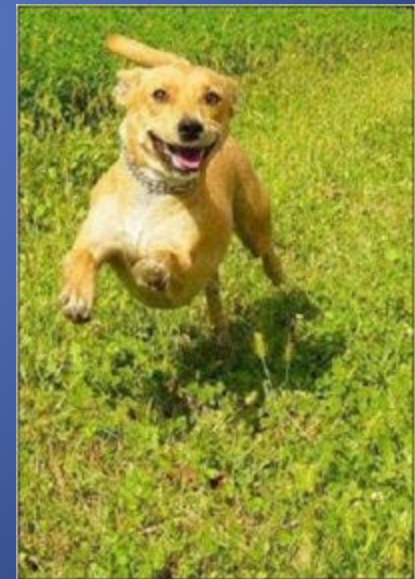
- Over 1,400 acres of conservation land
- Responsible for implementing rules and regulations to protect the land
- First established rules in 1974

# What's the Problem?

- Dog Interactions with Other Trail Users
- Wildlife Impacts
- Dog Waste
- Agricultural Restrictions

# Dog Interactions with Other Trail Users

- Off-leash dogs can frighten people
- Off-leash dogs can frighten other dogs
- Off-leash dogs can frighten horses



# Impacts on Wildlife

- Off-leash dogs have significant effects on wildlife
  - Wildlife harassment, disturbance, death
  - Habitat displacement
  - Behavior modifications







## Punkatasset

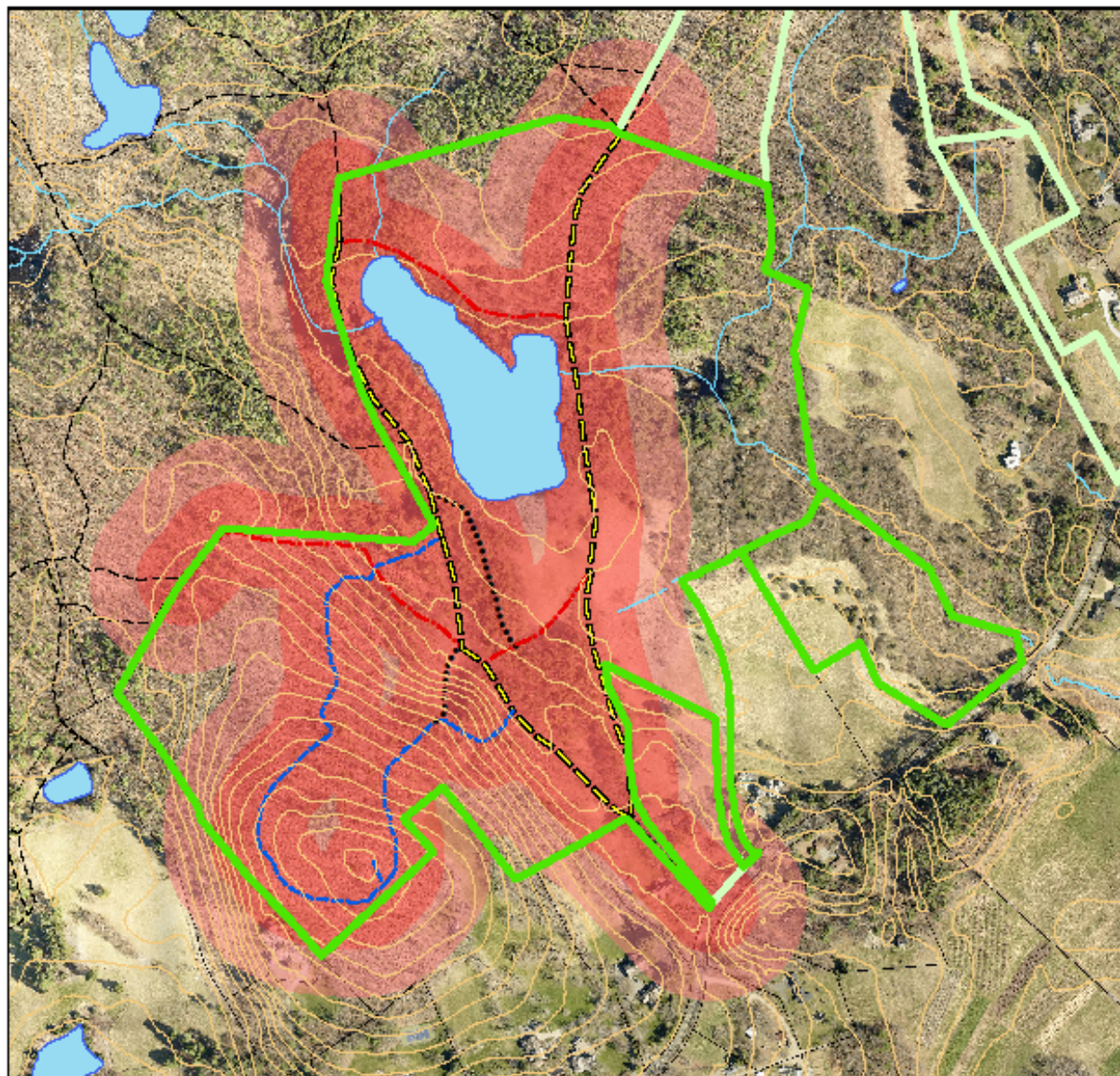
### Legend

- Yellow
- Red
- Blue
- Black Dot
- Black Line
- 50 meter Zone of Influence Punk
- 100 meter Zone of Influence Punk
- Punkatasset
- Conservation Trust Lands
- Ponds/Rivers
- 10-Foot Contours



150

Meters





# Dog waste has proliferated

- One dog produces an average of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. –  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. per day
- Disease and parasites can be passed to humans and wildlife





Please be a responsible  
dog owner and do your  
part to help keep our  
conservation lands and  
agricultural fields free of  
dog waste

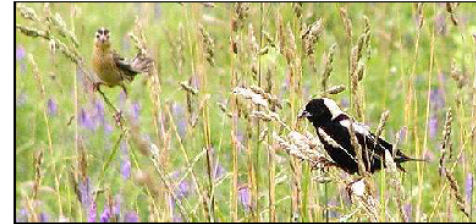
Dogs must be kept under owners' control at all times. It is the responsibility of each person who owns, possesses, or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any waste left by his or her dog.

In order to keep this area open to dogs, please remember Concord's conservation land "leave no trace" philosophy and pick up and properly dispose of your dog's waste.



*Thank you for your cooperation  
For further information, please contact the  
Division of Natural Resources at 978.318.3285*

Bobolinks and other grassland birds begin courting and looking for nesting sites in these fields in April and will begin nesting in May. Fledglings are present and vulnerable through July.



**To minimize disruption to breeding birds,  
please stay on trails, and keep dogs leashed  
& on trails from April 1 through July 31.**

*Thank you for your cooperation! For further information, please contact  
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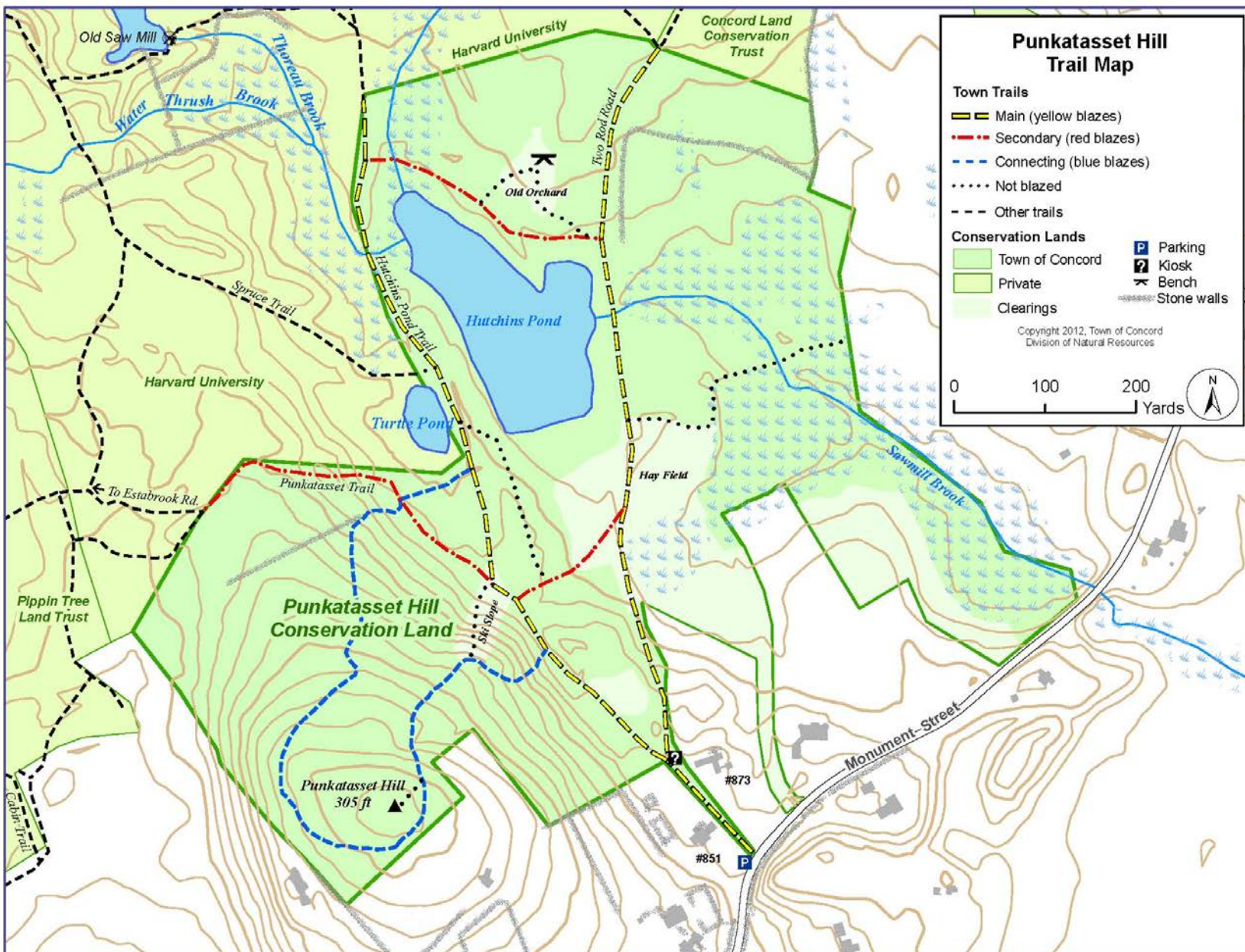
# What is Being Considered?

- Two dogs per person
- Physical leash restriction
  - 8-foot max length
  - No retractable leashes

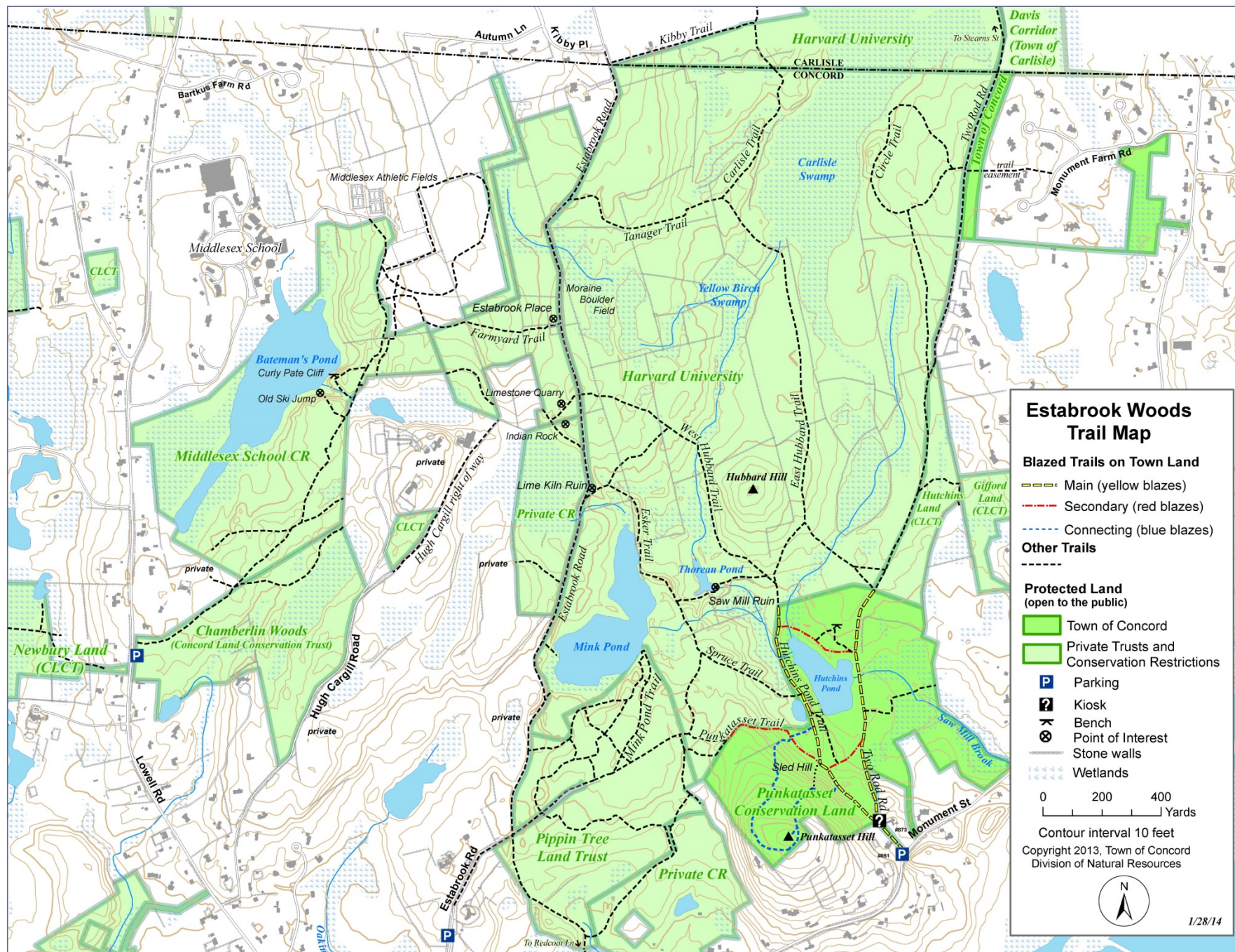


# Where Would Restrictions Be?

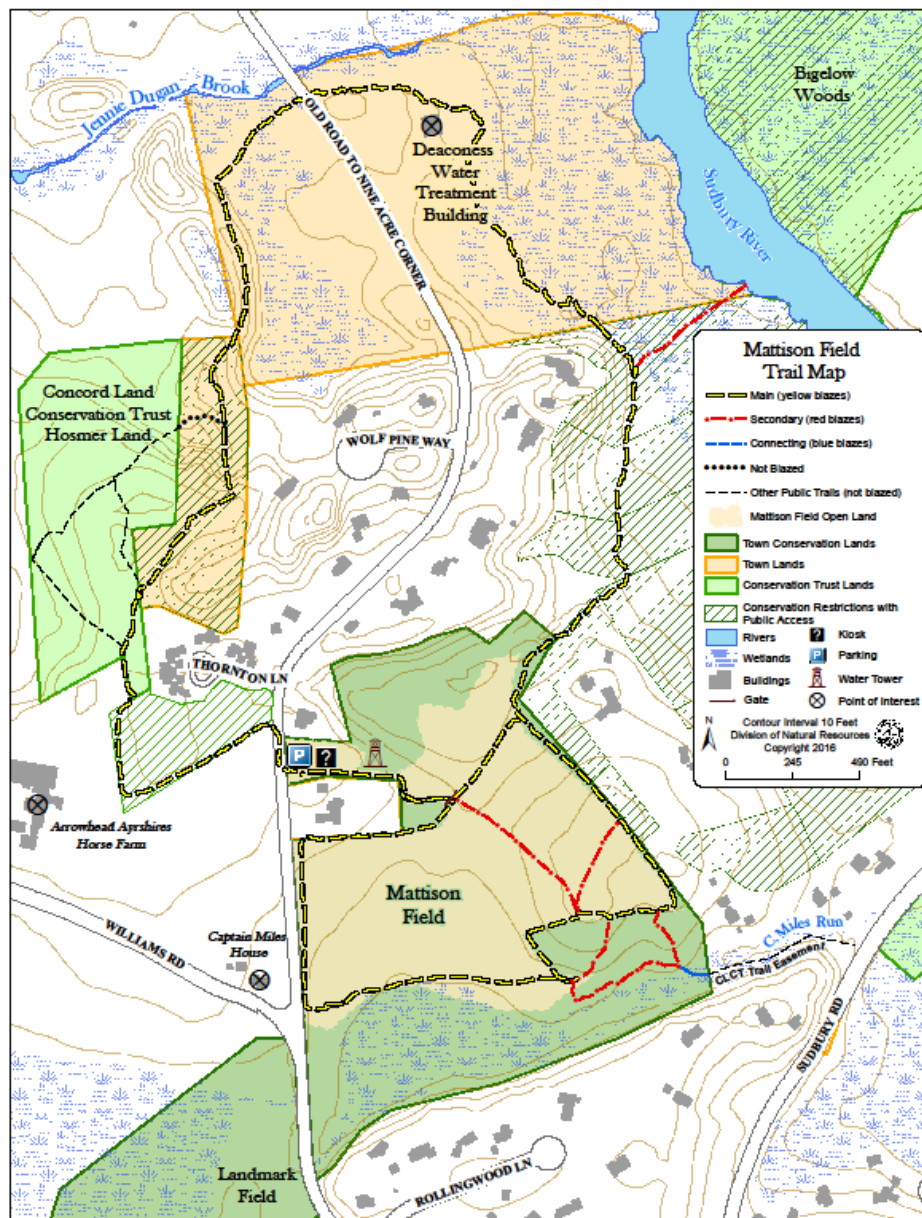
- Punkatasset and Monument Farm
- Mattison Field
- White Pond
- Agricultural Fields on Conservation land

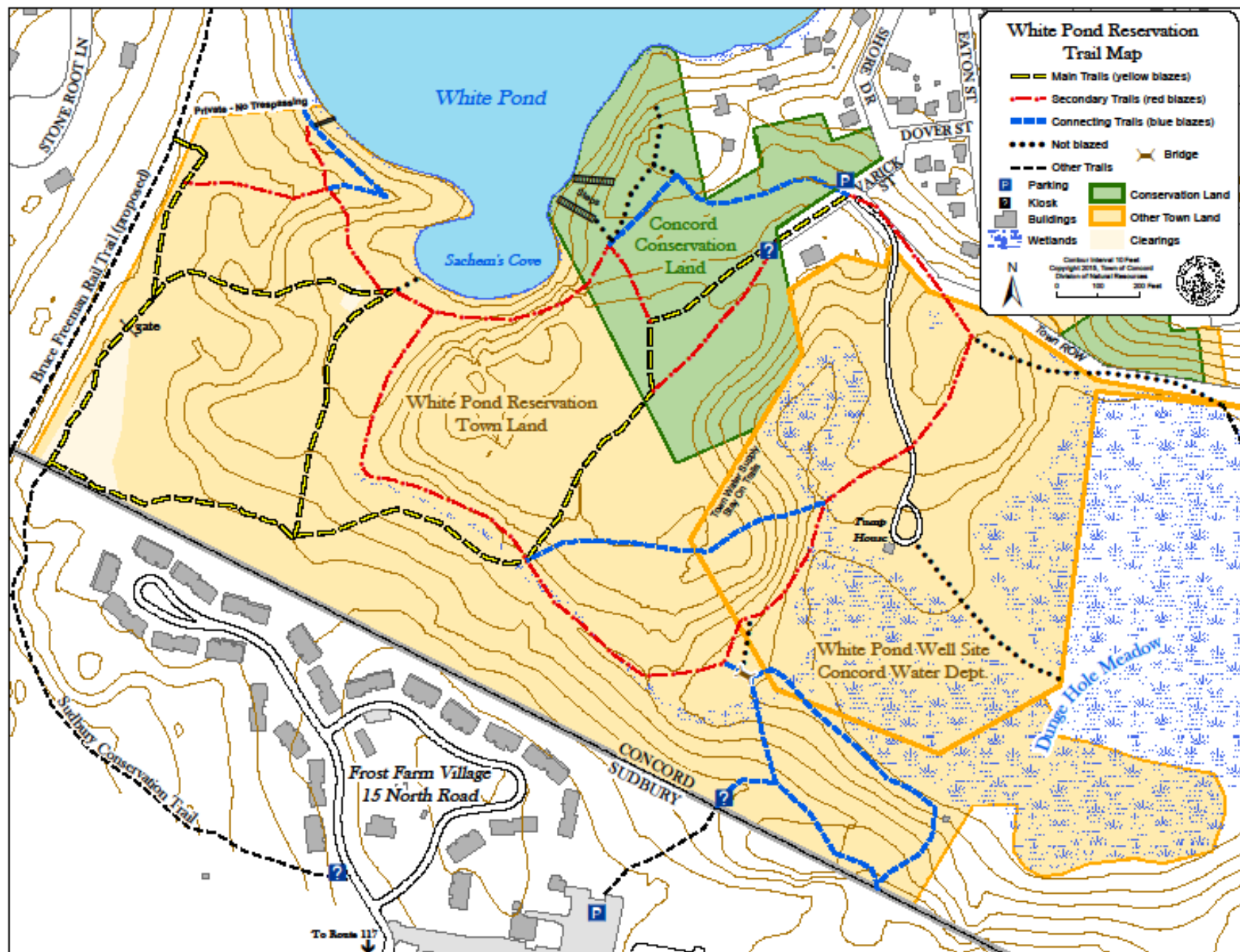




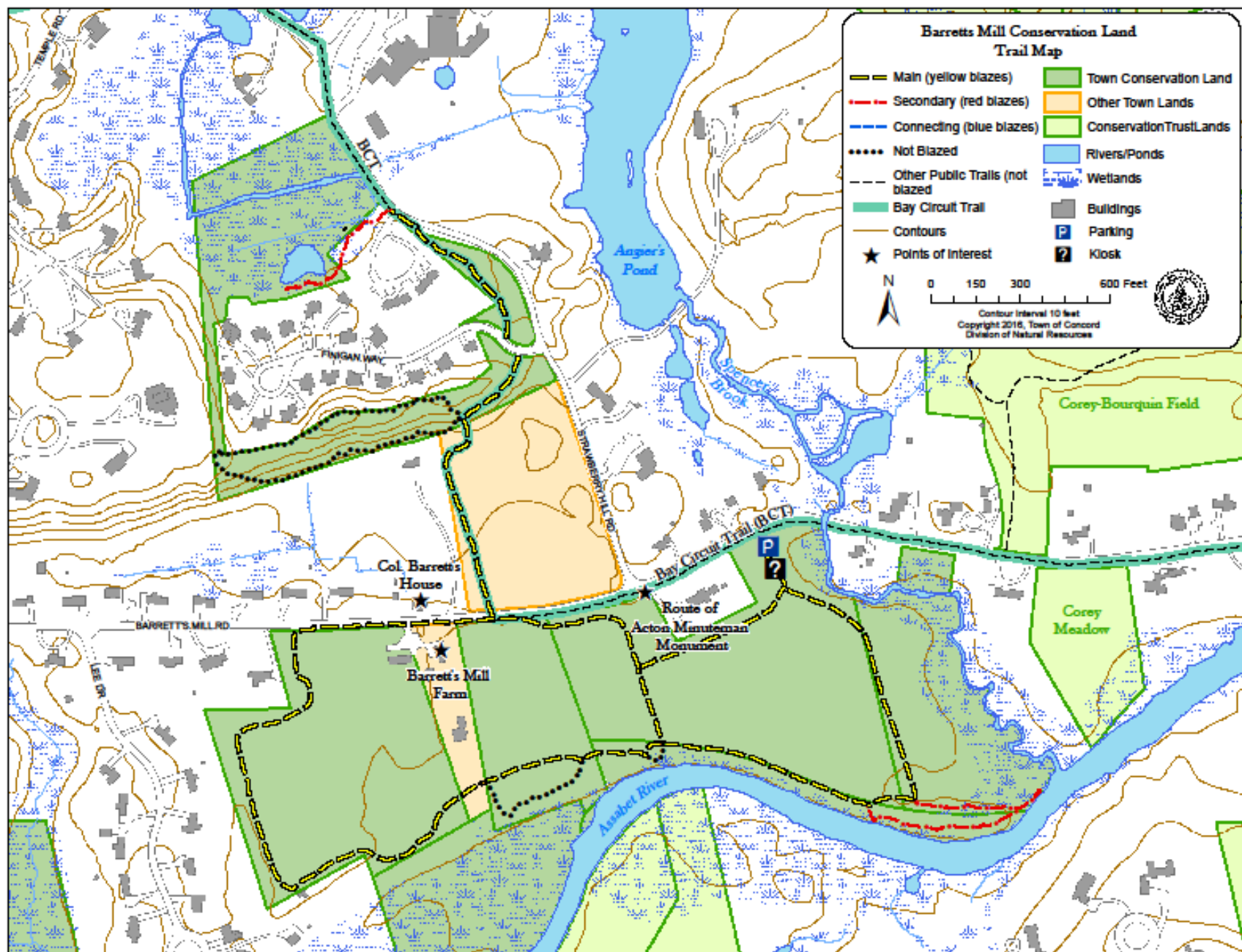












# Canine Conflict Literature

<http://concordma.gov/748/Conservation-Lands>

- **A Review of the Impacts of Nature Based Recreation on Birds**
- **Dogs, Access, and Nature Conservation**
- **Four-legged Friend or Foe - Biology Letters 2007**
- **Impacts of Dogs on Wildlife and Water Quality-Metro Parks and Nature - April 2016**
- **Quiet, Nonconsumptive Recreation Reduces Protected Area Effectiveness**
- **Recreational Use of Forests and Disturbance of Wildlife**
- **The Effects of Dogs on Wildlife Communities - Natural Areas Journal 2008**
- **Wildlife Responses to Pedestrians and Dogs - Wildlife Society Bulletin 2001**
- **Wildlife Responses to Recreation and Associated Visitor Perceptions**